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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/692,746	10/18/2000	Keith David Bussell	40624/RRT/S850	7076
23363	7590	01/10/2006	EXAMINER	
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP PO BOX 7068 PASADENA, CA 91109-7068			BACKER, FIRMIN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/692,746	Applicant(s) BUSSELL, KEITH DAVID	
	Examiner FIRMN BACKER	Art Unit 3621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 19-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 19-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

1. In view of the appeal brief file on November 22nd, 2005, prosecution is hereby reopened. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-15 and 19-51 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-15 and 19-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heiden (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,286) in view of Saigo et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,587,880).

4. As per claim 1, Heiden teaches an on-line system for printing a value-bearing item (VBI) (*printing system for printing indicium, fig 1-3*) comprising a plurality of user terminals (*plurality of remotely local computers 150*) coupled (*connected*) to a computer network (*network 110*), each a digitally signed advertisement graphics to be printed next to the VBI (*see abstract, figs 2, 3, column 5 lines 35-51*) plurality of cryptographic device (*psd 209s*) include computer executable code (*program*) verifying that advertisement graphics authorized be printed next to the VBI and a cryptographic devices used verifying advertising graphics any one or more of the

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plurality of user terminals cryptographic device remote from the plurality of user terminals (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*). Heiden fails to teach a plurality of stateless cryptographic devices remote plurality of terminals coupled computer network. However, Saigo et al teach a plurality of stateless cryptographic module (*see figs 1,2 column 5 line 45-6 lines 65*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention made to modify Heiden's system to include Saigo et al's plurality of stateless cryptographic devices remote plurality of terminals coupled computer network because this would have provided more flexibility to the system.

5. As per claim 2, Heiden teaches a system wherein the cryptographic device includes a computer executable code for verifying the advertisement graphics using a DSA algorithm, a public key, and a previously assigned digital signature (*see column 10 lines 22-42*).

6. As per claim 3, Heiden teaches a system wherein the computer executable code verifies if the digitally signed advertisement graphics has a correct digital signature file (*see column 10 lines 22-42*).

7. As per claims 4 and 5, Heiden teaches a system further comprising computer executable code for tracking a usage of the VBI including one or more of number of users signed up for the on-line system, number of users who have purchased at least a predetermined amount of VBI, number of users who have printed at least a predetermined amount of VBI, and number, of users

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who have maintained an account for a minimum number of predetermined period (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*).

8. As per claim 6, Heiden teaches a system wherein the cryptographic module includes a computer executable code for preventing unauthorized modification of data (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*).

9. As per claim 7, Heiden teaches a system wherein the cryptographic module includes a computer executable code for ensuring the proper operation of cryptographic security and VBI related meter functions (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*).

10. As per claim 8, Heiden teaches a system wherein the cryptographic module includes a computer executable code for supporting multiple concurrent users (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*).

11. As per claim 9, Heiden teaches a system further comprising a database remote from the plurality of user terminals including information about the users (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*).

12. As per claim 10, Saigo et al teach a system further comprising a plurality of security device transaction data stored in the database for ensuring authenticity of the one or more users,

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wherein each security device transaction data can be processed in the server system in a stateless manner (*see column 10 lines 22-42*).

13. As per claim 11, Heiden teaches a system wherein each security device transaction data is related to a user (*see abstract, figs 2, 3, column 5 lines 35-51*).

14. As per claim 12, Heiden teaches a system wherein the security device transaction data related to a user is loaded into the cryptographic module wiper the user requests the operate on a value bearing item (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*).

15. As per claim 13, Heiden teaches a system wherein the security device transaction data related to a user is updated and returned to the database (*see column 10 lines 22-42*).

16. As per claim 14, Heiden teaches a system wherein the cryptographic module performs cryptographic function on a transaction related to the database (*see column 10 lines 22-42*).

17. As per claim 15, Heiden teaches a system further comprising computer executable code for password authentication to prevent unauthorized access to the database (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*)

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18. As per claim 19, Heiden teaches a system wherein the database includes one or more indicium data elements, data for account maintenance, and data for revenue protection (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*)

19. As per claims 20 and 21, Heiden teaches a system wherein the database includes virtual meter information, descending register data (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*)

20. As per claims 22-28, Heiden teaches a system wherein a bar code is printed on the value bearing item that is a mail piece with a digital signature, is a ticket, is a coupon, is currency, is a voucher (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*),

21. As per claim 29, Heiden teaches a method for printing an advertisement next to a value bearing item (VBI) via a communication network including a client system and a server system comprising interfacing with one or more users via the client system communicating with the client system over the communication network (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*), a digitally signed advertisement graphics to be printed next to the VBI, verifying digitally signed advertisement graphics using any plurality cryptographic modules wherein any of the plurality of cryptographic modules may be used for verifying the digitally signed advertisement graphics for any one or more of the users (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44, column 10 lines 22-42*). Heiden fails to teach a plurality of stateless cryptographic module. However, Saigo et al teach a plurality of stateless cryptographic module (*see figs 1,2 column 5 line 45-6 lines 65*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

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made to modify Heiden's system to include Saigo et al's plurality of stateless cryptographic module because this would have provided more flexibility to the system.

22. As per claim 30, Heiden teaches a method of verifying the advertisement graphics using a DSA algorithm, a public key, and a previously assigned digital signature (*see column 10 lines 22-42*)

23. As per claim 31, Heiden teaches a method verifying if the digitally signed advertisement graphics has a correct digital signature file (*see column 10 lines 22-42*)

24. As per claim 32, 33, Heiden teaches a method further comprising tracking a usage of the VBI including one or more of number of users signed up for the on-line system, number of users who have purchased at least a predetermined amount of VBI, number of users who have printed at least a predetermined amount of VBI, and number, of users who have maintained an account for a minimum number of predetermined period (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*)

25. As per claim 34, Heiden teaches a method further comprising preventing unauthorized modification of data (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*)

26. As per claim 35, Heiden teaches a method further comprising ensuring the proper operation of cryptographic security and VBI related meter functions (*see abstract, figs 2, 3, column 5 lines 35-51*)

27. As per claim 36, Heiden teaches a method further comprising supporting multiple concurrent users (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*)

28. As per claim 37, Heiden teaches a method further comprising including information about the users in a database remote from the plurality of user terminals (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*)

29. As per claim 38, Heiden teaches a method further comprising storing in the database a plurality of security device transaction data for ensuring authenticity of the one or more users, wherein each security device transaction data is processed in the server system in a stateless manner (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*)

30. As per claim 39, Heiden teaches a method wherein each security device transaction data is related to a user (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*)

31. As per claim 40, Heiden teaches a method further comprising loading the security device transaction data related to a user into the cryptographic module when the user requests to operate on a value bearing item (*see abstract, figs 2, 3, column 5 lines 35-51*)

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32. As per claim 41, Heiden teaches a method further comprising preventing unauthorized modification of data using the cryptographic module (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*).

33. As per claim 42, Heiden teaches a method further comprising storing data for creating one or more indicium, account maintenance, and revenue protection (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*)

34. As per claim 43-46, Heiden teaches a method further comprising printing a mail piece includes a digital signature, a postage amount, an ascending register of used postage and descending register of available postage (*see figs 1-3, column 4 line 50-column 6 line 44*)

35. As per claim 47-51, Heiden teaches a method further comprising printing a ticket, printing a bar code, printing a coupon, currency, a voucher (*see abstract, figs 2, 3, column 5 lines 35-51*).

Conclusion

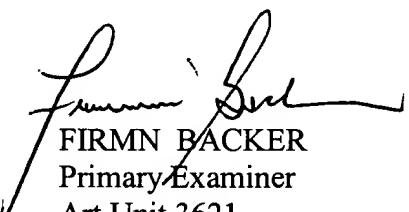
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FIRMN BACKER whose telephone number is 571-272-6703.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (571) 272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



FIRMN BACKER
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3621

January 5, 2006